Congregationalists Hold Last Service In Church

Washougal Church Building Completes Servic

By HAZEL H. CHANDLER

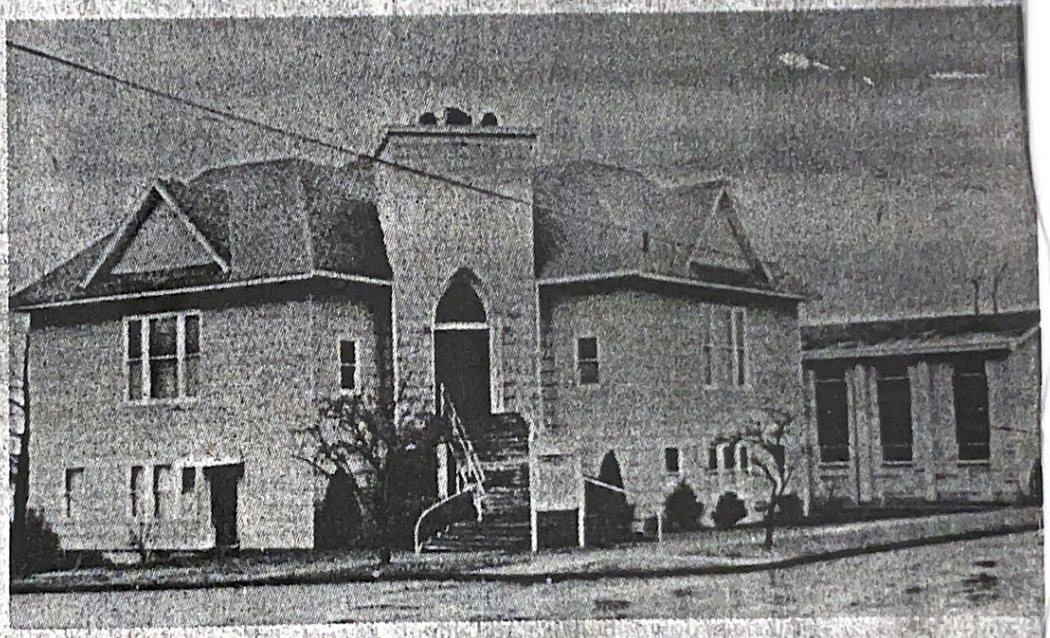
The congregation of Bethel Congregational Church of Washougal attended the last worship service in the church at the eleven o'clock hour on Sunday morning, October 9. Following the service moving of the organ, piano and other furnishings to the annex began.

The annex will now serve for all services of the church until a new building replaces the old.

The structure which has served the membership of Bethel Congregational Church since 1908 will be razed to make room for the new church which will be built on this site.

Bethel Congregational church is Washougal's oldest church, both as a building and as a church body. In pioneer days a group organized the church in 1880 and ground for the church and parsonage was donated by David Shepherd who owned a large farm in the area, and where a town had recently been platted.

Pastors often came by boat from Portland to hold services in the small church.



BETHEL CONGREGATIONAL church in Washougal is slated for the wrecking c soon, to make way for a new church edifice to rise on the same site. Built in 1 the church has been a vital part of the community ever since. Services will be h in the annex (at right) until the new structure is completed. The $100,000 proj will get underway soon.

Membership grew as the town grew and the present church was erected in 1908.

In preparation for a new church, building plans were drawn by an architect several years ago and in 1960 the first unit was completed, what is now the annex" or fellowship room.

This part, which will be incorporated into the new structure, contains a number of Sunday school rooms, kitchen, and a large auditorium.

Plans for the completed building call for a few additional Sunday school rooms, a room for women's meetings besides the auditorium or nave of the church. The cost has been estimated to be around $100,000 when completed. Work is to begin this Fall.